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Docket ET 04-37

OET
BPL

FAX

TO: To Whom in May Concern:
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
PH (202) 418-1900
FAX (202) 418-2806

FROM: The Office of Senator Tim Johnson
Libbie Canter, Research Assistant
PH (202) 224-5842
FAX (202) 224-5765

RE: Senator Johnson has received the following comments regarding broadband over power lines from several of his constituents. He would appreciate it if the FCC would take these comments into consideration during upcoming decisions and rule makings. Feel free to contact me (Libbie Canter) in his office with any questions or comments.

Thanks very much!

Total Number of Pages: 10

Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 212721

Mr. Daniel Schoenfelder
PO Box 169
Vermillion, SD 57069-0169

Activity Created: 3/29/2004
Activity ID: 355032
Interest Code(s): HAM,CO

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Defense

Date Received: 3/29/2004 1:12:05 PM

Tim,

I would like to drew your attention to the problems that BPL or Broadband over Power Line technology will do to CB and HAM radio operators. Unless this BPL is used over very limited band widths, it will severely interfere with CB and HAM radio signals. In a time of war, BPL is a BAD idea. I have heard that 5 or 6 other countries have abandoned the BPL idea for these same reasons. Thanks!

Dan Schoenfelder

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RECEIVED
JUN 15 2004
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

FAX

TO: To Whom in May Concern:
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
PH (202) 418-1900
FAX (202) 418-2806

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Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 125698

Mr. Joel Fagerhaug
110 James Place
Yankton, SD 57078

Activity Created: 3/22/2004
Activity ID: 353503
Interest Code(s): CO

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Technology

Date Received: 3/22/2004 1:17:20 AM

Dear Senator Johnson,

I am writing because a group of unsung heroes exist in America who deserve recognition. America's Ham Radio Operators. During storms, 9-11 attacks, floods and other disasters, our Ham operators often provide the only communications to a troubled area.

REACT teams were vital in the Rapid City flood, Hurricane Andrew, 9-11 attacks in New York and Washington. The San Francisco earthquake, and the list goes on and on. During last summer's power blackout. They often find distress calls from ships, planes and yachts at sea.

They become heros because they just help out and keep people connected. During a time of potential terrorist attacks which could damage our infrastructure or when solar flares can damage satelites, it is critical that we keep our Ham infrastructure alive and well.

It has been brought to my attention that these unsung heros may be doomed. The FCC is considering BPL approval to expand broadband internet by using RF frequencies in the HF (shortwave) band on unshielded powerlines which would make wonderful HF antennas. I know, I worked with hf in the Navy.

The American Amature Radio Relay League has done studies that indicate such a practice would eliminate Hams, hf and emergency service communicatoins. Many small rural police and fire departments would loose communicatoins. International aircraft would not be able to communicate on trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific flights. Navy and merchant marine ships and submarines would be without communciations with such hf pollution.

FEMA has indicated it would not be able to communicate in floods, forrest fires, or earthquakes.

The Netherlands and Japan tried this technology and are discontinuing it becuase of problems.

I urge you to protect HF communications for public safety, national security, international trade and transportation. Although broadband is nice to have, it is not as important as a fire department, police department, the National Forrest Service or the Airlines.

Please introduce legislation prohibiting this bad idea from impairing emergency workers from responding to the next 911 attacks in America.

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TO: To Whom in May Concern:
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PH (202) 418-1900
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FROM: The Office of Senator Tim Johnson
Libbie Canter, Research Assistant
PH (202) 224-5842
FAX (202) 224-5765

RE: Senator Johnson has received the following comments regarding broadband over power lines from several of his constituents. He would appreciate it if the FCC would take these comments into consideration during upcoming decisions and rule makings. Feel free to contact me (Libbie Canter) in his office with any questions or comments.

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Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 214862

Mr. Richard Beebe
913 S Gordon Dr
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Activity Created: 4/28/2004
Activity ID: 358110
Interest Code(s): COM

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Technology

Date Received: 4/28/2004 12:52:32 AM

On April 26, President Bush told the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Minneapolis: "There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

Mr. Bush is wrong. Although universal broadband service is a worthy goal, using power lines to distribute broadband services (called Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL) is a bad idea that should not be encouraged. There are better ways to do it. As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator who has passed a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) examination in radiocommunication technology, I can tell you why.

Power lines were designed to transmit electrical energy. They were not designed to transmit broadband signals, which is fact are radio-frequency (RF) signals. When a broadband signal is put on a power line, much of the RF energy leaks off the line and radiates, causing interference to nearby radio receivers. Interference has been documented at test sites throughout the country and overseas where BPL is in operation. Recordings of actual interference at several test sites are available at www.arrl.org/bpl.

The nation's 680,000 radio amateurs are especially concerned about this interference because it affects the short waves - a unique portion of the radio spectrum that supports long-distance, intercontinental radio communication. Licensed radio amateurs use these frequencies for hurricane reporting, disaster and emergency relief, and many other purposes in accordance with FCC regulations. The Amateur Radio Service is the only 100% failsafe emergency communications capability in the world. No matter what happens, radio amateurs will be able to communicate with one another without having to rely on the expensive and vulnerable infrastructure - but we cannot maintain our emergency networks if BPL is deployed and interferes with the weak radio signals we are trying to hear.

In addition to amateur operation, the short waves are used for international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, and other services including the military. Depending on the frequencies in use, BPL interference also could wipe out radio communication for many of our nation's First Responders - police, fire, and emergency medical personnel - who use low-band VHF radios operating in the 30-50 megahertz (MHz) range.

Radio amateurs support expanded broadband services to consumers at lower cost. Indeed, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does. These

include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and Broadband Wireless Access. None of these technologies causes interference to short wave radio.

BPL is sometimes touted as a solution for rural areas. It is not. A BPL signal only carries a few thousand feet down a power line and then must be repeated. This requires a lot of hardware and will not be economic in areas with low population densities.

The FCC recognizes the interference potential of BPL and is in the midst of a rulemaking proceeding, ET Docket No. 04-37, that propdses new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL systems. However, the FCC proposals do not go nearly far enough to protect over-the-air radiocommunication services.

In short, BPL has a major disadvantage that is not shared by other broadband technologies and that outweighs whatever benefit it may offer. National broadband telecommunications policy should not include support for BPL, but should focus on other, more appropriate technologies.

By encouraging broadband over power lines, the administration is heading in the wrong direction. Please do what you can to change its course. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Beebe
n0pv@arrl.org
(605) 332-1434

Docket ET 04-37

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FAX

OET
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168A

TO: To Whom in May Concern:
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
PH (202) 418-1900
FAX (202) 418-2806

FROM: The Office of Senator Tim Johnson
Libbie Canter, Research Assistant
PH (202) 224-5842
FAX (202) 224-5765

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Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 214546

Mr. Greg Hall
1312 E. Cabot St
Pierre, SD 57501-3408

Activity Created: 4/30/2004
Activity ID: 358332
Interest Code(s): CO,COM

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Environment

Date Received: 4/29/2004 3:58:41 PM

Dear Senator Johnson: I would urge your support to help Amateur Radio Operators and the ARRL to stop the deployment of Broadband over powerline. Power lines are not designed to prevent radiation of RF enery and BPL represents a significant potentioal interference source for all radio services using this frequency range.

As a licensed amateur radio operator involved in emergency communication, it is absolutely necessary that we try to eliminate interference rather than produce more.

Amateurs are not opposed to broadband services. On the contrary, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio specturm as Broadband over Power Line does. These include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and wireless broadband.

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Docket ET 04-37

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FAX

TO: To Whom in May Concern:
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
PH (202) 418-1900
FAX (202) 418-2806

FROM: The Office of Senator Tim Johnson
Libbie Canter, Research Assistant
PH (202) 224-5842
FAX (202) 224-5765

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Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 134474

Mr. Richard Donahue
106 North Harrison Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Activity Created: 4/30/2004
Activity ID: 358324
Interest Code(s): COM

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Technology

Date Received: 4/29/2004 7:29:22 PM

On April 26, President Bush told the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Minneapolis: "There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

Mr. Bush is wrong. Although universal broadband service is a worthy goal, using power lines to distribute broadband services (called Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL) is a bad idea that should not be encouraged. There are better ways to do it. As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator who has passed a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) examination in radiocommunication technology, I can tell you why.

Power lines were designed to transmit electrical energy. They were not designed to transmit broadband signals, which is fact are radio-frequency (RF) signals. When a broadband signal is put on a power line, much of the RF energy leaks off the line and radiates, causing interference to nearby radio receivers. Interference has been documented at test sites throughout the country and overseas where BPL is in operation. Recordings of actual interference at several test sites are available at www.arrl.org/bpl.

The nation's 680,000 radio amateurs are especially concerned about this interference because it affects the short waves - a unique portion of the radio spectrum that supports long-distance, intercontinental radio communication. Licensed radio amateurs use these frequencies for hurricane reporting, disaster and emergency relief, and many other purposes in accordance with FCC regulations. The Amateur Radio Service is the only 100% failsafe emergency communications capability in the world. No matter what happens, radio amateurs will be able to communicate with one another without having to rely on the expensive and vulnerable infrastructure - but we cannot maintain our emergency networks if BPL is deployed and interferes with the weak radio signals we are trying to hear.

In addition to amateur operation, the short waves are used for international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, and other services including the military. Depending on the frequencies in use, BPL interference also could wipe out radio communication for many of our nation's First Responders - police, fire, and emergency medical personnel - who use low-band VHF radios operating in the 30-50 megahertz (MHz) range.

Radio amateurs support expanded broadband services to consumers at lower cost. Indeed, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does. These

include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and Broadband Wireless Access. None of these technologies causes interference to short wave radio.

BPL is sometimes touted as a solution for rural areas. It is not. A BPL signal only carries a few thousand feet down a power line and then must be repeated. This requires a lot of hardware and will not be economic in areas with low population densities.

The FCC recognizes the interference potential of BPL and is in the midst of a rulemaking proceeding, ET Docket No. 04-37, that proposes new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL systems. However, the FCC proposals do not go nearly far enough to protect over-the-air radiocommunication services.

In short, BPL has a major disadvantage that is not shared by other broadband technologies and that outweighs whatever benefit it may offer. National broadband telecommunications policy should not include support for BPL, but should focus on other, more appropriate technologies.

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TO: To Whom in May Concern:
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PH (202) 418-1900
FAX (202) 418-2806

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FAX (202) 224-5765

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Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 91922

Mr. Ray N. Telkamp
32 Horseshoe Lane
Spearfish, SD 57783-1128

Activity Created: 4/30/2004
Activity ID: 358348
Interest Code(s): COM

Incoming Message:

Subject Desc: Other

Date Received: 4/29/2004 5:07:47 PM

The following article, prepared by the ARRL, indicates that you are not adequately informed of the use of power lines for the use of high speed communication. Being an amateur radio operator with thirty years experience, I urge you to further investigate the ramifications of this proposal prior to further public statements or actions.

Thank you,

Ray N. Telkamp
32 Horseshoe Lane
Spearfish, SD 57783
telkampdr@rushmore.com

On April 26, President Bush told the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Minneapolis: "There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

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